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11-7-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ding, Shi-You et al)
Application No. 09/917,378) Examiner: Rao, Manjunath N.
Filed July 28, 2001) Group Art Unit: 1652
Title Thermal Tolerant Mannanase from) Atty. Dkt. No.: NREL 01-35
Acidothermus cellulolyticus)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Box: Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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OCT 28 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

The present paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 27, 2002. The present paper is timely filed as it is being filed together with a one month extension of time up to and including October 27, 2002. No additional request for extension of time is deemed necessary. Should any additional request for extension of time be needed, please consider this paper to constitute the appropriate extension of time.

The elected claims are those characterized as Invention I (Claims 1-13, 26-33, 34, 43-44 and 63).

RESPONSE

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 14-25, 35-42, 45-62 and 64-67 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

34. (Amended) A mannanase-substrate complex comprising an [the] isolated polypeptide molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a heterologous protein in frame with the polypeptide molecule of SEQ ID NO: 2 [of claim 20] bound to hemicellulose.